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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,256	07/11/2003	Byung-in Ma	1293.1863	2425
49455	7590	06/21/2006	EXAMINER	
STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP 1400 EYE STREET, NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			GOMA, TAWFIK A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	

DATE MAILED: 06/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/617,256	Applicant(s) MA ET AL.	
	Examiner Tawfik Goma	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment filed on 4/10/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Ma et al (EP Publication 1085509 A2) in view of Eastman (US 5646919).

Regarding claim 1, Ma discloses a method of detecting a radial tilt of a disc (col. 9 lines 51-57), the method comprising: comparing phases of first summed signals obtained from a first plurality of signals that are generated when first light-receiving units of a photo diode receive light from a laser beam that is reflected from a surface of the disc to generate a first phase comparison signal (figs. 13-15 and col. 16 lines 7-10); comparing phases of second summed signals obtained from a second plurality of signals that are generated when second light-receiving units of the photo diode receive light from the laser beam that is reflected from the surface of the disc to generate second phase comparison signal (figs. 8-10 and col. 15 lines 17-23); and detecting the radial tilt based on a phase difference of second and first phase comparison signals obtained (col. 17 lines 34-54 and 453, fig. 17). Ma fails to disclose wherein the signals are obtained when a laser beam crosses a track on a disc. In the same field of endeavor, Eastman discloses a dynamic tracking control device for an optical disc,

wherein the error signal is detected while a laser beam crosses a track on a disc (fig. 6). Eastman further discloses that the error signal is used to eliminate tilt error (col. 3 lines 16-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the optical pickup apparatus disclosed by Ma, by detecting the error signal as the beam crosses the track as taught by Eastman. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to detect the tilt error signal as the beam crosses the track in order to have the error signal be more accurate with respect to changing conditions of the track (see Eastman col. 3 lines 19-23)

Regarding claim 2, Ma discloses wherein the detecting of the radial tilt comprises reading a level value of the second phase comparison signal when a level value of the first phase comparison signal is substantially zero (col. 17 lines 34-54). Ma discloses that each light portion of the photo-detector detects a signal separately and that a phase comparison on the inner areas is performed as well as a phase comparison on the outer areas. As a result, the phase comparison of the outer areas, which determines a radial tilt error signal, does not affect the detection performed on the inner areas, which also performs a radial tilt error signal, in the case where the phase comparison of the outer areas is zero. Finally, since Ma discloses subtracting the phase comparison signals and using the result as the tilt error signal, it is clear that the error signal would correspond to the value of the first or second phase signal when the other is 0.

Regarding claim 3, Ma discloses wherein the detecting of the radial tilt comprises

multiplying the read value by a proportional constant (155, fig. 19).

Regarding claim 4, Ma discloses wherein the second and first light-receiving units are substantially rectangular(A2, B2, C2, D2, fig. 5), two sides of light-receiving surfaces of the second light-receiving units and two sides of light-receiving surfaces of the first light-receiving units disposed in a track direction of the disc are substantially identical, and the other two sides of the light-receiving surfaces of the first light-receiving units disposed to be substantially perpendicular to the track direction of the disc are longer than the other two sides of the light-receiving surfaces of the second light-receiving units disposed to be substantially perpendicular to the track direction of the disc (fig. 5).

Regarding claim 5, Ma discloses wherein the second plurality of signals that second light-receiving units receive to generate the second phase comparison signal are portions of -1^{st} order and 1^{st} order beams of light (col. 10 lines 40-45).

Regarding claim 6, Ma discloses wherein the first plurality of signals the first light-receiving units receive to generate the first phase comparison signal are a 0^{th} order beam of light and one of -1^{st} order and 1^{st} order beams of light (col. 10 lines 54-58).

Apparatus claims 7-12 are drawn to the apparatus corresponding to the method of using same as claimed in claims 1-6. Therefore, apparatus claims 7-12 correspond to method claims 1-6, and are rejected for the same reasons of obviousness as applied above.

Claims 7-12 have limitations similar to those treated in the above rejection(s), and are met by the references as discussed above. Claim 7 however recites the following limitations an octant photo-diode (fig. 1 and fig. 5).

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Ma discloses a disc drive apparatus to drive and control tilt of a disc, comprising: a drive unit to rotate the disc (col. 1 lines 11-14); a pickup unit in which an octant photo diode is mounted (fig. 5); a tilt detector unit (see claims 1 and 7 above). Ma fails to disclose a focusing and seek servo control system to move a laser beam spot to a target track on the disc; a rotating servo control system to control the rotation of the disc; and a tracking servo control system to move the laser beam spot to follow the target track during the rotation of the disc. Ma discloses that the tilt detection unit disclosed is used an optical recording/reproducing apparatus, but fails to describe the features of the apparatus as claimed. However, in the same field of endeavor, Eastman discloses an optical recording/reproducing apparatus with error correction that includes a focus control (17, FA, fig. 1) and tracking control system (17, TA, fig. 1) and a rotating control servo (col. 6 lines 63-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus taught by Eastman by providing a tilt detection device as disclosed by Ma. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art would incorporate the tilt detector taught by Ma in an apparatus with focus, tracking, and disc rotation control in order to perform recording/reproducing functions properly.

Further in regard to claim 14, Ma discloses a disc recording/reproducing apparatus, comprising: at least one of a recording part to record data on a disc and a

reproducing part to reproduce data that had been recorded on a disc (col. 6 lines 19-22). It is inherent that the apparatus is mounted in a fixture in order to be functional as a recording/reproducing apparatus. It is also inherent that there is a path that transmits the signal to the recording/reproducing part.

Regarding claim 15, claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 16, claim 16 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 17, Ma discloses a computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions implementing a method of detecting a radial tilt of a disc (col. 33 lines 37-45). Ma in view of Eastman disclose everything regarding the tilt detection method as in claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 18, claim 18 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 2 above.

Regarding claim 19, Ma discloses wherein the method of detecting the radial tilt comprises multiplying the read value by a proportional constant (451, fig. 17).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/10/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding applicant's arguments with respect to detecting a tilt based on a phase difference of first and second phase comparison signals, the argument is not persuasive because Ma discloses calculating a difference of the first and second phase comparison signals (453, fig. 17) in order to determine the phase difference between the two signals (col. 17 lines 44-54). Ma discloses that the tilt error signal component of the signals are 180 degrees out of phase, and by applying the signal to a subtraction circuit, the tilt error signal can be calculated. Therefore, Ma discloses that

the tilt error signal is detected based on a phase difference (180 degrees) of the first and second error signals.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 with respect to detecting the tilt as the beam crosses a track on a disk have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fukumoto (US 6781930) discloses an error signal detection device using a main beam and two sub-beams.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tawfik Goma whose telephone number is (571) 272-4206. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


T. Goma
6/16/2006


THANG V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER